

CLAIMS

1 An anionic surfactant particle for use in a laundry detergent composition, the particle having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 95 wt% and comprising linear alkylbenzene sulphonate (LAS) and primary alcohol sulphate (PAS) in a weight ratio of from 5:1 to 1:3.

2 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 98 wt%.

3 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the ratio of LAS to PAS is within the range of from 3:1 to 1:2.

4 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, having an inorganic salt content not exceeding 2 wt%.

20 5 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the PAS has an average alkyl chain length within the range of from C₁₀ to C₁₆, preferably from C₁₂ to C₁₄.

6 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, 25 wherein the anionic surfactants are in sodium salt form.

7 An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, which is the form of a flake.

30 8 A process for the preparation of an anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the steps of

- (i) reacting LAS acid with sodium carbonate to form sodium LAS and water,
- 5 (ii) admixing PAS in any suitable form,
- (iii) drying the resulting mixture to a solid form, and
- (iv) comminuting to form particles.

10 9 A particulate detergent composition comprising an anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, in admixture or conjunction with one or more other solid detergent ingredients.

15 10 A particulate detergent composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises

- (a) a base powder composed of composite granules comprising surfactant and builder,
- 20 (b) anionic surfactant particles as claimed in claim 1,
- (c) optionally postdosed detergent ingredients.

25 11 A particulate detergent composition as claimed in claim 10, having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 20 wt%.